(b) and (c) There are no reports of any large scale settlement of foreign nationals like Bangladesh is on either side of the Gujarat border.

(d) A regular watch is being maintained by the State and Central Security agencies with a view to check unauthorised entry and/or movement of foreign nationals in the bordering areas of Gujarat. Governemnt of Gujarat have intimated that action for deportion of 22 Bangladeshi nationals, who are in their custody, has been initiated by them.

Mandatory Prerarration of Mining Plan

251. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, preparation of mining plan/ scheme once in every five years is mandatory for the small mine owners also; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to involve the Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur, to do this job so as to provide technical assistance/relief to small mine owners, by bringing forward suitale legislation, in the interest of mining industry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROf. RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to bring about any legislation in this regard. However, the Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur has already prescirbed simplified format for preparation of mining plan/mining schemes which benefit small mine owners. Indian Bureau of Mines also assists the recognised Qualified Persons who prepare the mining plans/schemes by organising training programmes, and by issue of guidelines/advice to such persons regularly.

Private Sector Participation in Coal Mining.

252. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of State for MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow private sector in the coal mining;

(b) if so,the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The Committee on Integrated Coal Policy had, in their report, observed, inter alia, that the gap between demand and supply of coal at the end of DC and X Plan periods would be substantial. The Committee concluded that the demand-supply mismatch for coal in the country would become more serious unless new policy measures are vigorously pursued. Keeping inview the observations of the Committee, a proposal for introduction of a Bill in the Parliament of amendments to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow the Indian Companies to do non-captive coal mining was submitted to the Government on 4.2.99. The proposal was approved by the government on 17.2.99. However, before the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1999 could be introduced in the Parliament, the 12th Lok Sabha was disolved. The matter is being considered denovo.

Revival Of ECL

253. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has been referred to BIFR;

(b) if so, the present revival status of ECL;

(c) whether ECL Board's decision to close sixty-four mines has been rescinded; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) :(a) to (d) In 1997-98 and 1998-99, the loss of ECL amounted to Rs. 541.89 crores and Rs. 472.47 crores respectively. On account of continuous losses for two